

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Time
1:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dennis Thompson, Chair
David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect
Mick Zais, PhD
State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

SBE Mission: The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education meeting convened at 1:25 p.m. In the absence of Chair Thompson, Chair-elect Dr. David Blackmon presided over the meeting. Dr. Blackmon called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance: David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect, Fourth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (participated online and by teleconference); and John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent with apologies were Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee. The Sixth Judicial Circuit was not represented as no one has been appointed to replace Josie Gaston, who resigned in December 2011.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Mick Zais, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Kim Aydlette, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Operations and Support; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON AUGUST 8, 2012

Mr. Griffith moved to approve the minutes for the SBE Meeting on July 11, 2012. The motion was seconded by Dr. Norton. The motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Mr. Rampey moved to approve the agenda for the SBE Meeting on September 12, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James. The motion carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Dr. Blackmon welcomed all visitors. There were no news media present.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

State Superintendent of Education Zais reported on his public appearances since the May 9, 2012, SBE meeting.

On May 11, 2012, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders in four high schools in Charleston County. His guest was Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers and former state superintendent in Arkansas and Kentucky. Mr. Wilhoit and his deputy came to South Carolina to visit these schools. The visits included Academic Magnet School, which is one of the top high schools in America, as well as the Garrett Academy of Technology and the Military Magnet High School, both of which are high-poverty schools that are “knocking it out of the ballpark” and are excelling. Another visit was to James Island Charter School, a middle-income school that is also excelling.

On May 14, Dr. Zais participated in a bill-signing in Greenville for the new charter school bill which was passed by the General Assembly (GA) and signed into law by Governor Nikki Haley (Governor).

On May 17, Dr. Zais spoke to the Power Breakfast Club in Columbia. The discussion focused on education policy and included a number of education and business leaders throughout the state.

On May 18, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at W. A. Perry Middle School and Heyward Gibbes Middle School in Richland County School District One.

On May 21, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at Lee Central Middle School in Lee County.

On May 23, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders in Allendale County School District, which included Fairfax Elementary School, Allendale Elementary School, Allendale-Fairfax Middle School, and Allendale-Fairfax High School.

Dr. Zais reported that, by the end of the school year, he had visited 114 schools across the state since assuming the office of State Superintendent of Education. He stated that this does not include the schools he visited before he assumed office.

On June 5, Dr. Zais delivered the keynote address at the Military Careers Pathways Conference in Columbia for military recruiters, school counselors, and advisors to explain the different military career options in our armed forces.

On June 11, Dr. Zais attended the Education Oversight Committee meeting and delivered a short version of the transforming education briefing.

On June 13, Dr. Zais attended the graduation ceremony at the Youth Challenge Academy at the McGrady Training Center in Eastover. This South Carolina National Guard program prepares students to take the General Educational Development (GED) test. For the first time, they are offering online high school credit recovery so students can also receive a high school diploma. Not only do they work on GED skills and knowledge but also on important life skills such as self-discipline, hard work, persistence, and physical fitness.

On June 18, Dr. Zais visited Macedonia Elementary School in Barnwell County School District 19 to learn about their summer reading program. Afterwards, he spoke to the Barnwell Rotary Club about transforming education. He also visited the Dixie-Narco Manufacturing Plant, which manufactures almost all the vending machines used for all brands of products made in Barnwell County.

On June 21, Dr. Zais visited the Science-Plus Institute in Greenville County, a non-profit organization that provides teacher training and professional development to science teachers during the summer. Afterwards, he visited the BMW Manufacturing Plant to learn about requirements for workforce development and the skills they are looking for in hiring workers.

On June 24, Dr. Zais delivered the keynote address at the Sixteenth Annual "I Love America" Celebration held yearly in Calhoun County. Many members of the community were there including the sheriff, police chief, district superintendent of education, and school board members. Later that evening, Dr. Zais made remarks in Greenville at the 2012 Education in Business Summit. This is a huge conference organized by the SCDE's Office of Career and Technology Education, and there were approximately 2000 attendees at the conference.

On July 19, Dr. Zais attended the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Business Speaks Week at Presbyterian College. This is very similar to Boys State and Girls State, but rather than focusing on government and politics, they focus on how to start and run a business. Afterwards, he visited with Presbyterian College of Education to discuss teacher preparation in that school. Dr. Zais concluded the day by discussing workforce-development requirements with the leaders of the Walmart Distribution Center in Laurens County.

On July 20, Dr. Zais participated in a news conference in West Columbia; a faith-based group, Christ Center Ministries, is offering free GED preparation for residents of West Columbia. This is a good

example of how faith-based groups can have a profound impact on their communities and on workforce preparation within their communities. Later that day, Dr. Zais gave the graduation address to about 400 high school juniors and seniors who attended the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission Summer Aviation Camp. The camp is free for young men and women, and it provides them the opportunity to ride in an airplane as part of studying aeronautics and aviation. This is a good program, and it is the first year it has been sponsored and run.

On July 23, Dr. Zais attended the ribbon-cutting and spoke at the Meeting Street Academy in Charleston. This is a private school whose mission is to serve low-income families in the City of Charleston. Afterwards, he visited the Port of Charleston to discuss workforce-development issues and the economic impact of South Carolina's ports. He concluded his visit by speaking to the Summerville Evening Rotary Club.

On July 27, Dr. Zais visited Sonoco, a packaging plant in Hartsville, to discuss workforce-development issues. Sonoco has donated generously to public education in Darlington County. Afterwards, he visited with the chairman of the College of Education at Coker College. The college dean had most of her faculty there as well as the college president, and the discussion centered on educator preparation and what Coker College is doing to prepare our future teachers.

On August 2, the SCDE held a news conference announcing the results of the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) and the High School Exit Exam as well as the new school letter grades and the new federal report card. The letter grades were part of the ESEA waiver that the SCDE received from the USED.

On August 3, Dr. Zais attended a meeting of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees.

Dr. Zais stated that he had also attended meetings with various groups of teachers. On May 9, he met with teachers from Spartanburg County along with South Carolina Representative Rita Allison. He stated that they had a productive discussion on teacher preparation, teacher compensation, the role of the teacher in the classroom of tomorrow, and the technology that will become available in the next decade. On June 7, Dr. Zais met with teachers who teach family and consumer science; they were here at the Rutledge Building working on standards for that course. He stated that his mother used to teach family and consumer science, known at that time as home economics. Dr. Zais concluded by sharing that his parents were both teachers and that is how they met; so he is indebted to teachers.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Zais and the SBE members recognized the State Honor Roll Teachers and South Carolina's 2012 Teacher of the Year. They are as follows:

- Ms. Taunja Pool, Honor-Roll Teacher from the Greenville County School District, is represented on the SBE by Dr. Danny Varat. As a student, Taunja once was placed in early intervention programs for math and science, and those experiences made her want to be a teacher. Today, she does all that she can to help those students make the connections in their work. National Board certified, Ms. Pool obtained her undergraduate degree from Lander University and her master's degree from Lesley University. She has been teaching for fourteen years.

- Ms. Helen Walker, Honor-Roll Teacher from the Kershaw County School District, is represented on the SBE by Rose Sheheen. Ms. Walker arrived in South Carolina from Great Britain in 2000 on a one-year teaching contract and has never looked back. To witness her students excel in music where they may struggle in other areas of the curriculum creates a positive sense of accomplishment for her. National Board certified, Walker earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wolverhampton in the U.K. and a master's degree from Francis Marion University. She has been teaching for ten years.
- Ms. Patricia Swinton, Honor-Roll Teacher from Richland School District One, is represented on the SBE by Rose Sheheen. This 32-year veteran initially wanted to become a cancer researcher. However, the student teaching experience she had at the urging of her advisor to take education courses changed her life forever. She has embraced teaching for a long time and has always loved the interaction with students in the classroom. National Board certified, Ms. Swinton earned a bachelor's degree from Long Island University and master's degrees from Hofstra and Jackson State Universities.
- Mr. Philip Rabon, Honor-Roll Teacher from Lexington School District Two, is represented on the SBE by Barry Bolen. This former cadet credits great childhood teachers, mentors, and parents who modeled unconditional love and compassion for shaping him into the teacher he has become. He feels teachers can make the world a better place one student at a time. Mr. Raybon has been teaching for twelve years, is National Board certified and earned a bachelor's degree from The Citadel and a master's degree from Southern Wesleyan University.
- The 2012 State Teacher of the Year is Ms. Amy McAllister-Skinner. She is represented on the State Board by Bishop Michael Blue. Ms. McAllister-Skinner says teaching is her defining attribute. It is her desire to never be complacent and content with education, but strive to learn as much as she can in order to be the best teacher for her students. National Board certified, McAllister-Skinner earned a bachelor's degree from Francis Marion University and completed a master's degree from Coastal Carolina University in May of this year. She has been teaching for five years.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Seven persons signed up for public comment and spoke regarding the proposed teacher evaluation guidelines, teacher raises, and teacher concerns. They are as follows:

- Laura Clinton, teacher/parent
- Jackie Hicks, South Carolina Education Association
- Hope Lights, Irmo-Chapin Education Association
- Christi McCollum, teacher
- Buffy Murphy, teacher
- Derrick Seabrook, teacher
- Paula Woodlief, Sumter Schools Education Association

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

SB STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Adopt Passing Scores for New Praxis Examinations in Special Education: Teaching Students With Visual Impairments, Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, Professional School Counselor, and Chinese (Mandarin) World Language (Second Reading)**—Bill Billingsley, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

Mr. Billingsley gave an overview of SB-01. Dr. Longshore moved that the SBE approve the adoption of passing scores for new Praxis examinations in Special Education: Teaching Students With Visual Impairments, Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, Professional School Counselor, and Chinese (Mandarin) World Language (Second Reading). The motion was seconded by Mr. Griffith. The motion carried.

- 02. Proposed Praxis II Pass Score Amendments (Second Reading)**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Stowe gave an overview of SB-02. Mrs. James asked whether any feedback had been received from the first reading of the proposal. Dr. Stowe stated there was feedback in the speech-language pathology area. Mrs. Sheheen said she would like to see the comments received. Ms. Bosket reported that the comments did not focus on the cut score but on the actual regulation that governs the three components of the certification, which would be the degree level, the cut score, and the expectation that candidates have participated in an educator certification program. The SCDE is not modifying those three components of the regulation; we are bringing our cut score in line with what would be recommended, which puts the SCDE in a favorable position relative to what other states are requiring. The comments centered on whether or not a master's degree should be required and if any additional certification should be required beyond a master's degree, but this is not being addressed today. Mrs. Sheheen stated that a request had been made to go back to the chair of the Professional Review Committee (PRC) and get feedback from the deans as to what they thought about these concerns. Mrs. Sheheen asked if this had been done. Ms. Bosket said the SCDE did not talk to the PRC Chair.

Dr. Zais commented that he did not think there were problems with the change to the Praxis cut score; there were problems with other policies for which the SCDE is not recommending changes. Mrs. Sheheen said that Angie Neal had made the speech-language pathology presentation, and she read a portion of Mrs. Neal's suggestions. Dr. Zais summarized the presentation and stated that they want all speech-language pathologists to have a master's degree. We have two programs in South Carolina that

offer a bachelor's degree: South Carolina State and Columbia College. The SCDE has consulted with superintendents who have to hire these folks, and the superintendents have told us that there is no difference in the effectiveness of speech-language pathologists who have a master's and those who have a bachelor's degree. If a superintendent has the opportunity to choose between a speech-language pathologist who has a master's degree and one who has a bachelor's degree, the superintendent should be allowed to make that choice. Mrs. Sheheen asked if the SCDE is confident that there will be a number of teachers who are able to pass the new Praxis test to fill the positions. and she asked if the SCDE is making it more or less rigorous. Dr. Zais responded that the test is more rigorous but that we had the lowest Praxis pass score in the nation. We do not have to have the highest Praxis pass score in the nation, but he hates to say that we have the lowest standards nationally, which is what we have currently.

Dr. Longshore asked if the document with the proposed pass rate of 81 percent reflects previous scores, and Ms. Bosket stated that is correct. Dr. Blackmon stated that this is a very competitive field when recruiting at the district level.

Dr. Longshore moved that the SBE approve the proposed Praxis II Pass Score amendments. Dr. Varat seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 03. Revised Standards, Policies, and Procedures for South Carolina Educator Preparation Units (Second Reading)**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Stowe gave an overview of SB-03, clarified the relationship between state and national standards, and removed some redundencies. The revised Standards, Policies, and Procedures for South Carolina Educator Preparation Units is very similar to the original document but with clarifications, redundencies removed, and more streamlining.

Mrs. Sheheen moved that the SBE approve the revised Standards, Policies, and Procedures for South Carolina Educator Preparation Units. Mr. Rampey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

Dr. Longshore stated there was one action item placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Challenge to Achieve Plans for Priority Schools in South Carolina**—Montrio Belton, PhD, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Longshore gave an overview of this item. He also commented that the new list of schools added to Palmetto Priority Schools is a result of the recent release of the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) report cards. There are a total of 58 schools identified through the Education Accountability Act (EAA) and ESEA.

Dr. Longshore gave an overview of the information item as follows:

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Programs Voluntarily Terminated by Institutions of Higher Education**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Report—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair

Dr. Blackmon stated there was one action item placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed State Board of Education Budget, Fiscal Year 2012–13**—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair, Innovation and Finance Committee, State Board of Education

Dr. Blackmon reported that the SBE's budget is starting off in a positive way due to the operations funds being restored to the level of five years ago, around \$58,000.. He said that support from the GA is very much appreciated. The IF Committee approved the continued support of the Riley Institute's Award for Excellence recognition in October. The SBE has been asked to donate \$1,000 to that effort, and it was agreed to do so.

Dr. Blackmon stated there were two information items as follows:

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Financial Update**—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair, Innovation and Finance Committee, State Board of Education
03. **Innovation Steering Committee Update**—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair, Innovation and Finance Committee, State Board of Education

Dr. Blackmon reported that the Innovation Steering Committee disbanded on June 30, and a report from SC Future Minds is forthcoming.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

In the absence of Chair Thompson, Dr. Blackmon, Chair-elect, reported that there was one action item placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Annual Report of the Accreditation of Schools and Districts in South Carolina for the 2011–12 School Year**—Maria Boggs, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Dr. Blackmon reported that there were two action items for the SBE’s consideration as follows:

02. **Sumter County School District Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request**—Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Mr. Griffith moved to postpone the approval of the Sumter County School District Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request. He said that it is a very important decision, and it is imperative that district superintendents present their cases at an SBE meeting. Mr. Kobrovsky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

03. **Hampton One School District Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request**—Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Superintendent of Hampton County School District One, Dr. Douglas McTeer, reported that the 2 percent cost for teachers was \$178,000, and \$137,000 was budgeted for health and \$160,000 for retirement. These items exceeded the amount of state money received, so anything Hampton One does will cause the district to run a deficit. Hampton One will have to make a decision to not give increases or to lay teachers off. The Hampton One School Board prefers not to give increases rather than having a reduction in force. The district no longer has the capability to furlough or sequester teacher-supply money. Dr. McTeer said his district is in a position where teachers will have to be laid off. For 2013–14, he will present to the Hampton One Board the options of either closing the school, discontinuing the arts program, or letting class sizes increase to about 30 students per class. The Hampton One Board will have to make that decision; it has been delayed this year by using one-time money. Step increases only exacerbate the situation by causing more teachers to have to be laid off.

Dr. McTeer commented that he anticipated seeing 60 superintendents at today’s SBE meeting and does not know why they did not attend with the same request he made. He knows that they are all going into their fund balance to get by this year. He said that if the SBE approves his request and the Hampton One Board finds out his district is the only one not giving salary step increases, they will reverse the request very quickly. Dr. McTeer stated that he needs to contact the other superintendents and ask them to think about their funding plans. He added that he wants the option to save teacher positions by not giving step increases.

Mrs. James asked Dr. McTeer whether the teachers were aware that one of the decisions was not to give a step increase when he visited his district’s schools to discuss the budget situation. Dr. McTeer said that this was explained to the teachers during his visits, and feedback has shown that teachers would rather not receive a step increase than to have a

reduction in force. Mrs. James stated that the decision has been passed from the legislature to the SBE, and the SBE had to rely on the expertise of the local school districts and boards to make the decisions that are in their best interest. She said that perhaps some SBE members may not think the right thing was done, but at least Dr. McTeer took the responsibility to look at the facts, make a recommendation, and come to a decision locally.

Mrs. James moved that the SBE approve the Hampton One School District Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request. Mrs. Sheheen seconded the motion.

Dr. Varat stated that these increases were mandated and funded by the GA with the exception of a possible waiver being discussed in the SBE meeting today. He said it is important to note a couple of things: one is that sooner or later the lack of getting a step increase is going to whipsaw those involved. If we start down the waiver road, the whipsaw will only get harder when it comes time to grant increases as the GA will not do this forever. If the waiver is granted, the floodgates will open, and by the time the SBE grants 20, 30, 40 or however many waivers, then the GA will turn around next year and realize the monster they created and take it away. The problem will then be that these teachers' salaries will be kicked down the road one more year, and it will be worse. Secondly, every district faces its own challenges and makes its own priorities. The FY 2011 numbers are not available yet, but the FY 2010 numbers show Hampton One spends over 9 percent of its funds in administration. Dr. Varat said that this is an example of areas not being cut in order to protect their teachers, and these teachers deserve this raise. When the \$10 million was vetoed by the Governor, the legislature was inundated by teachers, administrators, and parents demanding that the money be put back in the budget for these raises, and the money was returned to the budget. To turn around now and say that this does not have to be done is an undercutting of the teachers who deserve it, were promised it, and thought they were going to get it, because they know it has been funded. It is a mistake for the SBE to go down this road. If so, the SBE will be doing nothing but this for the next few months, and it will only allow local boards and administrations to further hide from the responsibility to prioritize the money they have. Dr. Varat stated that taking this money away from the teachers is the wrong thing to do.

Dr. Longshore stressed again that at some point there will have to be a reconciliation of the step increases for Hampton One and Sumter. However, he added that the legislature showed a lack of responsibility by kicking the ball down the road to the SBE. If they wanted the teachers to have the step increase and the 2 percent, that is the way they should have approved it in the budget rather than kicking it down the road and putting the monkey on the SBE's back.

Mrs. James said that the decision will always fall to the local districts. What the legislature has done to allow this issue to arrive is to give permission for the step increases not to be given because they were not able to address educational funding at the legislative level. Mrs. James also stated that the local districts know best what their situations are, and without the SBE micromanaging the local districts, she does not see the SBE making any decision other than the one they are requesting. There is no process in place, and the SBE needs to listen to the local districts' opinion of what is best for

them. She has concerns about any small districts that put themselves in a position where their salaries are lower and the teachers can go to the next district, but the districts are aware of this situation. Mrs. James also said she disagrees that the raises were fully funded, and she does not think the districts would be telling the SBE what their deficits were going to be if they were fully funded.

Chair-elect Blackmon called for the vote. The motion carried with opposing votes by Dr. Varat and Mr. Griffith.

Mrs. James made the comment that the step increases were not funded but the 2 percent was. Mr. Ragley stated that Mrs. James was correct—that the 2 percent raise was funded through a new Education Improvement Act (EIA) line called teacher salary support so the GA directed the SCDE to increase the state minimum salary schedule by 2 percent, which was done. The GA appropriated roughly \$46 million in EIA funds to that line, so the 2 percent was taken care of. The step increase is what we are discussing today. The SCDE did projections on funding increases of state funding only. This has been available on the SCDE Web site, and the districts have had this information for several weeks. Mr. Ragley reiterated Dr. McTeer's statement that Hampton One is getting around \$381,000 of net state money this year, and \$336 million of that is through the Education Finance Act (EFA) formula. Sumter County is getting approximately \$2.9 million of new state fund sources for the next school year. Of the \$2.9 million, roughly \$2.58 million is in the EFA, which goes to the district general fund. This is where some legislators talked about how step increases were funded, because the EFA went up to \$2,012 per student. Because of the significant increase, some people came to the conclusion that it was funded. However, this is a matter of debate.

Dr. Longshore commented that he agrees with what Mrs. James said and that is one of the reasons his vote reflected deferring to the districts. The second reason was a protest vote against the legislature for kicking this ball down the road to the SBE.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

Mrs. James gave an overview of the three action items placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Prioritization of Recommendations for the Purchase of Instructional Materials for the 2013–14 School Year**—Cathy Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Teacher Effectiveness in the Division of School Effectiveness
- 02. Instructional Materials Advisory Committee (IMAC) Recommendations for Exercising Options for Extending Instructional Materials Contracts**—Cathy Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Teacher Effectiveness in the Division of School Effectiveness

03. **Recommendations for Subject Areas to Be Called for the 2013 Instructional Materials Adoption Cycle and the 2013 Calendar of Events**—Cathy Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Teacher Effectiveness in the Division of School Effectiveness

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved in committee and placed on the Consent Agenda .

Education Professions (EP)

01. **Challenge to Achieve Plans for Priority Schools in South Carolina**

Innovation and Finance (IF)

01. **Proposed State Board of Education Budget, Fiscal Year 2012–13**

Policy and Legislative (PL)

01. **Annual Report of the Accreditation of Schools and Districts in South Carolina for the 2011–12 School Year**

Standards, Learning, and Accountability (SLA)

01. **Prioritization of Recommendations for the Purchase of Instructional Materials for the 2013–14 School Year**
02. **Instructional Materials Advisory Committee (IMAC) Recommendations for Exercising Options for Extending Instructional Materials Contracts**
03. **Recommendations for Subject Areas to Be Called for the 2013 Instructional Materials Adoption Cycle and the 2013 Calendar of Events**

Mr. Willis commented that he has reviewed the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) computer-adapted testing process. He stated that before this system is implemented in 2013, it needs to be revamped by redesigning what has been in the districts for 15 years. The access and security issues regarding current third-party secondary-connection providers should be reviewed, the band width for Internet access should be increased, and all technical requirements should be assessed from a network standpoint.

Dr. Busbee responded that currently each of the assessment consortia are doing a very formal survey with every state that is a participant in one consortia or the other to see where each district is in preparing for this online assessment. The first phase of that survey was done in June 2012; the next phase will be in September 2012, and the SCDE is encouraging schools to participate. She said that Mr. Willis is referring to the gap analysis, which will be determined after the September survey.

Mr. Griffith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Disney. The motion carried.

X. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Mr. Ragley responded to Mr. Willis's concerns about the online assessment gap analysis. He said that the SCDE's Chief Information Officer, Don Cantrell, said that in the last 60 days, without any cost to the districts, we have actually increased the bandwidth tenfold. Mr. Ragley added that Mr. Willis's observations are appreciated, and the SCDE will continue addressing all problems associated with the online needs of the districts.

Mr. Ragley updated the SBE on two legislative issues. The first issue concerns the Dyslexia Task Force, which has been meeting since February 2012. The legislation asked the SCDE to lead a task force of members that had delegated spots to determine how we are identifying students with dyslexia and what services are being provided to them. This report should be completed by the end of the year, as required by the legislation. All documents related to the Dyslexia Task Force are available on the SCDE's Web site. The second issue concerns two GA study committees, the Teacher-Salary Study Committee and the School Bus Transportation Decentralization Study Committee. These committees have not met yet, and they are solely legislative in nature. There are no SCDE nor SBE appointments to the committees. However, since recommendations should come out in the fall, Mr. Ragley wanted the SBE to be aware of their existence.

Mr. Ragley reported that the 2013–14 budget process is beginning. The SCDE has not yet received the letter requesting submissions for the Governor's executive budget, but we have begun the process of looking at it. Sometime in September, the SBE may want to consider letting the SCDE know what their budget needs are, and it will be included in the budget request. The executive budget deadline is October 1, 2012.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. James asked for an update on the teacher evaluation plan for the four districts from which the SBE is withholding assistance money. Mr. Ragley stated that the conditions had been met, and plans have been approved for those four districts. Dr. Blackmon commented that Chair Thompson will be working with the SCDE regarding teachers' concerns regarding a potential teacher evaluation plan. This issue will be an agenda item at some point in the near future.

Mr. Willis said that he understands there are 22 schools that were part of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) money process and are part of this evaluation this school year. Ms. Bosket stated that the SCDE is conducting a beta, and there will not be any hiring decisions made as we are gathering information on those SIG schools, so it is very narrowly focused. She added that in October the SCDE plans to give the SBE an update on those schools involved in the beta test. Mr. Willis said his concern is that the schools are having to comply this school year, and today is the meeting prior to the start of the school year. He

said there is a school in Spartanburg County that is part of this program. He was told that this school does not have a choice, it was not a voluntary process, and it is contingent upon receiving SIG money. Mr. Willis added that, due to input received today and because of the information that U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan had in his letter about involvement from educators and the community before the execution of the evaluation, he would like to make a plea that the SCDE acknowledge the school teachers and consider suspending the evaluation criteria until the SBE can see more buy-in from the education community. He said that a placard outside teachers' doors will make them angry and has the potential to become a legal issue.

Dr. Zais commented that no one has ever said anything about putting placards on teachers' doors. The component of teacher evaluation and student growth is less than half. He stated that there was so much misinformation put out today by teachers that it is clear they have not read the regulation. Ms. Bosket agreed that there is misleading information out there, and she understands the SBE's concerns in this matter. Dr. Zais stated that the teachers are reading the letter received from the South Carolina Education Association; they have not read the regulation. We have a teacher evaluation plan in 49 Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) schools right now, and it is working quite well. The vast majority of the teachers in those TAP schools find that the feedback they get through this process is very helpful.

Mr. Willis stated that he is referring to information he received that includes a letter from the U.S. Department of Education about this program and said they are echoing the same issues. He mentioned that the SCDE should solicit input from stakeholders and meet regularly with district superintendents. He feels the SCDE should engage stakeholders before asking the superintendents to execute the program.

Mr. Ragley stated that the reference in the letter Mr. Willis referred to has nothing to do with educator evaluation; it is about school letter grades. That was the single-most issue that Secretary Duncan said they were struggling with, and that school districts do not like letter grades. There was never any point where they said the school districts do not like educator evaluation. Mr. Ragley reminded the SBE that the waiver process began in October 2011 when Dr. Zais stated he was going to submit a waiver. In December, the SCDE put together a draft proposal after holding stakeholder meetings in November. SCDE staff traveled around the state 22 times holding public meetings, and over 680 comments were submitted. Revisions were made from other stakeholder meetings in addition to the public ones. At no point did anyone say there was a problem with classroom evaluation regarding student growth. Mr. Ragley referred to copies of the Race to the Top (RTTT) application from Dr. Rex's administration. The South Carolina Education Association (SCEA), the Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA), the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA), and the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) all supported the RTTT application. Rounds one and two emphasized "value-added" classroom observations for teacher and principal evaluations.

Mr. Ragley commented that the four groups that have been leading this charge have either flipflopped or they lied in 2009 and 2010. This will be brought up at another SBE meeting because it is not going away. But, when the SBE members get these complaints and they are part of the SCEA, PSTA, SCASA, or SCSBA, ask what their position was in 2009 and 2010, because, in writing, they supported it. The term "value-added" was used thoroughly throughout the RTTT applications.

Dr. Blackmon cautioned the staff against accusing professionals of misrepresenting the facts. He said that this is inappropriate and added that these groups work hard every day. They may misunderstand

certain issues, but they are not to be accused of falsehoods or lying. He added that it may be prudent for the SCDE to help make the facts clear so there will be no alleged misrepresentation.

Dr. Zais commented that the facts are that these groups supported value-added as a component of teacher evaluations. It is also a fact that it was a federal requirement for RTTT and for an approval of a waiver. Buy-in from the community had nothing to do with value-added as a component of teacher evaluations but had everything to do with letter grades for schools and districts.

Mr. Willis stated that he was not speaking about the content but about the protocol of the proposal, and it seemed to him the process of putting the program in place was done very quickly. Mr. Ragley said that process is very important, and the SCDE had a very transparent process. Concerning what other states did with ESEA waivers, he mentioned that the other states did not hold 22 public meetings across the state. Mr. Ragley added that there were no public or virtual statewide meetings during the RTTT process; it was written inside the SCDE and submitted in order to receive the money. The waiver process has been the most transparent this state has ever seen. In the feedback received, we gained information not only about the waiver process but about other operations within the SCDE that we need to fix, and we are working to fix those things. But the process was more than followed. The educator-evaluation guidelines, student growth, and other topics were made public. What people are arguing and complaining about is that they do not like the end product. They did not participate in the process and did not come forward with their complaints at that time. Now that the SCDE has an approved waiver, they want to basically shut down the waiver.

Mrs. James commented that this indicates a necessity to have this discussion in the September SBE meeting; not the October meeting. Dr. Blackmon responded that he will ask Chair Thompson to consider her suggestion. Mr. Ragley stated that the request was sent in for October because Dr. Zais is unable to attend the September SBE meeting. Mrs. James said that there should be a called meeting at the SCDE's expense. This issue is too important, and there are too many misunderstandings about process regarding the final product. Dr. Zais said that if people would read the regulation, there will not be any misunderstanding. Mrs. James said they have read the regulation. Dr. Zais commented that perhaps they did not like what the regulation says, and there are a lot of teachers who do not like the concept of being evaluated, particularly based on whether or not they are successful. He added that one of the points he has consistently made is that there are high-poverty schools in this state that are doing very well, and high-poverty schools in this state that are doing very poorly. The difference is not the demographics of the students, the geography of the school, or the education level of parents; the difference is the competence of the adults in the system. Until we have a system which identifies those teachers and administrators who are competent and those who are not, we will continue to see poor kids suffering in schools where they do not learn. The SCDE has to have a system in place where we can identify those teachers and take action accordingly.

Dr. Longshore commented that the SCDE has had the TAP program in several schools for more than 10 years, and he asked if there are significant differences between the TAP evaluation process and what is currently in the ESEA waiver or if they are the same. Ms. Bosket said the programs are similar but not the same. Dr. Zais stated that the part that is most similar is the technique that is used to measure value-added or student growth. Ms. Bosket added that value-added as it has been applied in our TAP schools has not been the bane of those schools' existence. Regarding negative comments about value-added, she said that South Carolina uses evaluation systems that take student growth and improvement into account, and it has been in our state for some time. The SCDE has received federal funds through the

TIF grant, and we are pursuing more TIF funds. There is some information on value-added that the SCDE looks forward to clarifying on our proposal, which we plan to do in October 2012. We are moving forward with what we have committed to in terms of the USED plan for implementation through the beta that we will be conducting during the 2012–13 school year.

Mr. Willis said his issue is that the SBE and the SCDE are not able to discuss this until October, but there are already 22 schools that are exercising the evaluator program right now. Dr. Zais commented that South Carolina has nearly 50,000 teachers; seven came to the SBE meeting today, and he is not sure those teachers or administrators reflect a representative group. Ms. Bosket said that the protocol issue is important. For clarification, she added that in September 2011 Secretary Duncan announced the waiver process. The SCDE gave periodic updates to the SBE of what the components would include. Concerning the third principle of educator evaluation, the SCDE was very specific about what this principle required, and we provided updates (some at the request of SBE members and some as part of the SCDE being proactive) along the way. In SBE meetings, we specified what was going to be included as part of principle three. The value-added component was required from day one. The process was updated at the end of May 2012 when the USED required that we submit our guidelines on June 25, 2012. This timeline was not one that the SCDE sought, but it is one that we adhered to knowing the importance of South Carolina's receiving the waiver. Ms. Bosket stated that she does not want there to be a miscommunication that our plan was to make the SBE aware in July that we submitted the guidelines and then there be no further communication. She added that the SCDE has conducted training for the SIG schools on what we are walking through. Ms. Bosket said she will be glad to follow up on resource-allocation issues as a result of the educator evaluation system in the school to which Mr. Willis referred. Mr. Willis asked whether a school can receive SIG funding if they choose not to participate in the program. Ms. Bosket said those details can be included in the update that the SCDE will provide regarding the SIG schools.

Mrs. Disney said she appreciates the SCDE's attempt to say that this has been a very transparent procedure. She said that since the SCDE staff referenced the TAP evaluation system, she would like to compare it with the proposed system and requested it be sent to her and all SBE members electronically. Mr. Ragley stated that the SCDE will be glad to share that information with the SBE.

Mrs. James asked for clarification of the SBE's role concerning the approval of a teacher-evaluation system. Mr. Ragley said that if we make changes to regulations that govern teacher and principal evaluations, it would come before the SBE. The SIG grant is not a regulation; it is a grant between the SCDE and the school districts. Any wholesale changes would require a change in the regulation.

Mr. Willis commented that he assumes the 22 SIG schools had an opportunity to review the waiver and its contents regarding teacher evaluation prior to submission. Mr. Ragley stated that Mr. Willis is referring to a school that does not want to be in a SIG program any longer and does not want to use this version. He said schools had a choice between TAP, IET, and a Create Your Own program; only three SIG schools picked TAP, and 22 picked the beta test.

Dr. Longshore commented that he would caution the SCDE not to assume that the teacher concerns are on a small level; it is on a much broader level than what may have been represented by the number of educators who attended the SBE meeting today. Dr. Zais stated that there are a lot of teachers who do not want to be held accountable. Also, that as long as human beings are involved in an evaluation system, it is going to be imperfect. However, an imperfect evaluation system that includes student growth is better than no evaluation that includes student growth—and that is what South Carolina's

public schools have now.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:25 p.m.